participation in the domestic air transport services:—

1. Foreign equity upto 40% and NRI/OBC investment upto 100% would be permitted in the domestic air transport services.

2. Equity from foreign airlines will, however, not be allowed directly, or indirectly, in the domestic air transport services.

3. The extisting companies operating in the domestic air transport sector in which equity is held by foreign airlines, directly or indirectly, will be advised to disinvest equity held by foreign airlines within a period of six months.

Thus equity participation by foreign airlines alone is not permissible under the new policy. This has been due to protect the nescent domestic civil aviation industry.

Demand to Re-introduce Delhi-Rajkot flight via Udaipur

4000. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flight from Delhi-Rajkot was discontinued in the year 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is demand to re-introduce the Delhi-Rajkot flight via Udaipur;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This service was withdrawn due to inadequate traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to reintroduce the service due to the constraint of aircraft capacity.

Neglect of Patna Airport by Airlines

4001. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Airlines, Alliance Air and Private airlines have neglected Patna airports as very few services connect this airport and even metropolitan and other big citis are not connected to Patna by air;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard so as to connect Patna by air with major cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating regular air services from Patna connecting Delhi, Culcutta and Mumbai besides linking Lucknow and Ranchi.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Issue of Advance Import Licences under Export Commitement Scheme

4002. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after liberalisation, Government have issued Advance Import Licences under the Export Commitment Scheme, if so, the number thereof during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have verified the number of cases who fulfilled obligations in terms of dues in Rupees/$ and value and if so, details thereof indicating separately those who fulfilled the commitments and those who did not under the above mentioned scheme; and

(c) whether Government have forefeited the guarantees/bonds of defaulting companies, if so, the names thereof and in how many cases bonds/guarantees were subsequently released indicating on what basis/conditions?